## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

William F. Howard, et al.

Group Art Unit: 3672

Serial No.: 10/648,815

Confirmation No.: 4562

Examiner: Matthew J. Smith

Filed:

For:

August 26, 2003

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Customer No. 36735

MAIL STOP AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## **RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 24, 2006**

In response to the Final Office Action dated October 24, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 24, 2007, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/WEAT/0313/WBP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.